## Commonwealth of Kentucky

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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October 1, 2010

Mr. John J. Johnson Executive Director Kentucky Commission on Human Rights 332 W. Broadway, Suite 700 Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Any organization would be proud to celebrate its Golden Anniversary. But when the organization is the Kentucky Human Rights Commission and the occasion marks its 50-year endeavor to protect and promote basic human rights, it's a cause for celebration and pride for citizens throughout the state.

The Commission's efforts on the frontlines of the struggle for justice carry on a long tradition of Kentuckians who value the dignity of every person. As imperfect beings, we will always have a measure of injustice in our society. But we'll also have the heroic efforts of those working to overcome injustice. Those efforts were kept alive during the dark days of slavery by Kentuckians who supported emancipation and aided Underground Railroad routes in our state. The efforts were sustained by those who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to our State Capitol in 1964 to support civil rights. And they continue today with the Kentucky Human Rights Commission's efforts to enforce the state's ban against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and financial transactions.

Through my work as a public servant and state legislator, I've had numerous opportunities to witness the Commission's dedication and effectiveness. I am particularly appreciative that the Commission signed on as a supporter of my ongoing efforts to give Native Americans official recognition by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. My interactions with the Commission's talented and conscientious staff leave me with no doubt that Kentucky benefits mightily from the sustained efforts to protect the rights of our citizens and the contributions each of them can make to our state.

I offer the Commission my sincere thanks and best wishes for its next half-century of service to our commonwealth.

With much appreciation,

Reginald K. Meeks State Representative

District 42

RKM/dh